



POLLINATOR FRIENDLY ALLIANCE  
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**Date:** February 16, 2023

**To:** Minnesota Representatives and Senators

**The Pollinator Friendly Alliance board, staff and members are requesting your support for measures that control ATV's and off road motorized vehicles in Minnesota DNR-managed state lands including state forests, state parks, wildlife management areas, aquatic management areas and scientific and natural areas.**

Please support this bill. This bill will Implement common sense controls and rules to protect our water and wildlife habitats. Better controls for and reducing ATV and off-road motorized vehicle traffic will help ensure our Minnesota natural treasures are healthy and accessible for everyone.

In recent years, land degradation and development has accelerated due to pressures from industrial agriculture, urbanization, and deforestation. Often public lands offer the last remaining vestiges of habitat for at-risk wildlife species. Minnesota state forests and other public lands are natural treasures but with the noise from ATV's and off-road vehicles, that nature experience is destroyed for the quiet use visitors. Not only are motorized vehicles loud, but they also erode soil and destroy terrain requiring costly maintenance. This excessive noise is also disruptive to mating and nesting behavior of wildlife, often causing wildlife to abandon the area.

We receive the latest statistics on the decline of not only pollinators but also birds and animal species. It is no secret we are in the midst of a crisis as animal populations continue to decline. In less than a lifetime, North America has lost more than one in four of its birds and half of wild animals in the last 40 years. One major cause is habitat loss and land degradation. Some of our last remaining refuges for wildlife exist on public lands. Protecting biological diversity and integrity and conserving the system's wildlife are the central tenets of a refuge system's mission and our state's responsibility.

This bill will lessen the environmental impact of ATV's and off-road vehicles and help diminish the noise for the benefit of all other visitors, and takes nothing away from the motorized user. These measures will help protect our state's tourism economy and preserve nature for Minnesotans to enjoy today and in the future.

Thank you for your service.